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Real Test on Debt Relief Still Ahead:

RSC Press Release**Wednesday, September 19, 2000**

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The following statement was released by
Chairman John Shadegg:



Chairman John Shadegg

"The near unanimous vote in favor of setting aside at least 90 percent of the "surplus" for public debt reduction was not surprising. Everyone supports public debt reduction in the abstract. We are pleased to have strong bipartisan support for protecting 100 percent of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses. In addition saving at least \$42 billion of the non-Medicare, non-Social Security surplus for public debt reduction is a step in the right direction.

"The real test to see who is in favor of debt reduction, however, will come when Members cast their votes on individual appropriations bills that dedicate portions of the surplus for public debt reduction rather than increased spending.

"One of my Democratic colleagues got it exactly right when in the course of discussing what is necessary to really reduce the debt, he stated '...you need discipline in spending.' When the rubber meets the road, I hope my Democratic colleagues and the Clinton-Gore Administration will demonstrate such discipline and support debt reduction rather than more spending.

"We have developed and are advancing a plan to force the President to agree to allocate portions of the non-Social Security, non-Medicare surplus for debt reduction in each appropriations bill. By highlighting the choice between debt reduction and increased spending, the Republican Congress

can demonstrate the difference between those who actually want to reduce publicly held debt, and those who only want to pay lip service to debt reduction while they squander the surplus on more government spending."

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